20 lakh new LPG customers and provide 20 lakh DBCs during the year 1994-95; and

(b) if so, what are the State-wise allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allotment of new LPG connections and release of DBCs is not made on a State-wise basis. New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the availability of LPG, total new customer enrolment, waiting lists, slack available with the distributors and their viability. LPG customers of the public sector oil companies interested to have a second cylinder are required to get their names registered with the concerned distributors. The distributors release second cylinder on a first-cum-first served basis, subject to availability of quota.

Levying the Oil Development Cess

2969. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives behind levying the Oil Development Cess;

(b) the extent to which these objectives have been achieved;

(c) the present rate at which the Oil Development Cess is being levied; and

(d) the total amount at present in the Oil Development Cess fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Oil Industry Development Act, 1974 provides for a levy of cess on indigenous crude oil and natural gas as a duty of excise, to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Central Governmeny may, if parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, pay to the Oil Industry Devleopment Board from time to time from out of such proceeds such sums of money as it may think fit for being utilised exclusively for the purposes of this Act, viz. for the devleopment of oil industry, and for matters connected therewith.

(b) Since the inception of the Act and upto March, 1994, the Oil Industry Devleopment Board has provided loan assistance of Rs. 5175.00 crores to the Oil Industry to supplement its resources for meeting capital and operational requirements. During this period, grants-in-aid to the tune of Rs. 93.11 crores were also disbursed for oil sector activities.;

(c) The present rate of levy of cess on crude oil is Rs. 900.00 per tonne.

(d) As on 31.3.94, the total accumulation in the Oil Industry Development Fund was Rs. 3007 crores.

Production of Natural Gas from Bombay High

2970. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas is being produced alongwith crude oil in the Bombay High;

(b) if so, the quantity produced during 1993-94 and the manner in which it is proposed to be utilised for industrial purposes;

(c) whether any pepelines are being laid for the supply of natural gas of Bombay High from main land to terminals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.